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EARL STANHOPE's

PROTEST.

HOUSE OF LORDS,

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1795.

AFTER MAKING THE FOLLOWING MOTION.

"Resolved, that this Country ought not, and will not interfere in the internal affairs of France; and that it is expedient, explicitly to declare the same."

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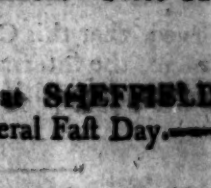

EARL STANHOPE's

PROTEST.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

TUESDAY, JAN. 6, 1795.

The order of the day being read, Earl Stanhope moved,

"RESOLVED, that this country ought not, and will not interfere in the internal affairs of France; and that it is expedient, explicitly to declare the same."

A debate enſued, and it was moved, "that this Houſe do now adjourn," which being objected to, after a further debate, the ſame was reſolved in the affirmative.

On

On Friday the noble Earl entered the following,

PROTEST.

DISSENTIENT. 1ſt. Becauſe the motion made for the Houſe to adjourn, was profeſſedly intended to get rid of the following Reſolution, *viz.* Reſolved, &c. ſee above.

2dly. Becauſe I hold, that it is contrary to equity and juſtice, for any foreign country to interfere in the internal affairs, or conſtitution of the French Republic, or any other independent nation.

3dly. Becauſe the government of Great Britain, (not having been elected by the Citizens of France) can have no more right to give to France a monarchical, ariſtocratical, or other form of government whatever, than the crowned deſpots of Pruſſia and Ruſſia, had to overturn the conſtitution of, now, unhappy Poland.

4thly. Becauſe I highly diſapprove and reprobate the doctrine, advanced by miniſters in the debate; namely. "That to reſtore the ancient and hereditary monarchy of France, no expence ſhould be ſpared."—And I reprobate that pernicious and uncivic doctrine, the more ſtrongly from its not having been ſuddenly, haſtly, or inconſiderately ſtarted; but, from its having been taken up (as it was ſolemnly declared) upon the utmoſt deliberation.

5thly. Becauſe I deem it to be an injuſtice committed by miniſters, towards my fellow citizens, to adopt a principle which ſhall render it neceſſary for the government of Great Britain to lay further heavy

heavy burthens upon the people; and to tax their houſes, their windows, their beer, there candles, their ſhoes, and many other conveniences and neceſſaries of life, in order to provide a fund, to attempt the accompliſhment of ſuch a wicked purpoſe as aforeſaid.

6thly, Becauſe the propoſed Reſolution, above ſtated, was intended by me as a "*ſolemn pledge*," that the government of this nation would not interfere in the internal affairs of France; but the refuſal of the Houſe to give ſuch a pledge, tends to ſhut the door to peace; and conſequently tends to enſure the ruin of this manufacturing, commercial, and once happy country: particularly conſidering the increaſed, and rapidly increaſing ſtrength of the navy of the French Republic; independently of the proſpect there is, of their having the navies of Holland and Spain under their immediate influence.

7thly, Becauſe the public funds, the paper currency, and the public and private credit of this country, will probably be unequal to ſtand againſt the tremendous ſhock to which the miniſters will now expoſe them.

8thly, Becauſe I think that, frankneſs, fairneſs, humanity, and the principles of honeſty, and of juſtice, are always in the end the beſt Policy.—And I believe it to be true in regard to nations (as well as with reſpect to individuals) that, "nothing that is not juſt, can be wiſe, or likely to be ultimately proſperous."

9thly, Becauſe I lament the more, that the Houſe

Houſe ſhould refuſe to diſclaim the interfering in the internal conſtitution of France, in as much, as by the new conſtitution of the French Republic one and indiviſible, adopted by the preſent National Convention, on the 23d day of June, 1793, and under the title "Of the Relation of the French Republic with foreign nations," and by the Articles 118th and 119th of that conſtitution, it is declared and enacted that,

"The French people, is the friend and natural "ally, of every FREE nation. It does not in- "terfere with the government of other nations. "It does not ſuffer that other nations ſhould "interfere with its own."

So frank, ſo fair, and ſo explicit a declaration on their part, did, in my opinion, intitle them to a better ſpecies of return.

rothly, Becauſe I conceive that a true Republican form of government, being firmly eſtabliſhed in France, is much more ſafe to the liberties of the people of Great Britain, than the tyrannical, capricious, perfidious, ſecret, intriguing, and reſtleſs, ancient monarchy of France, or than any other monarchy they could there eſtabliſh: but, even if I were of a direct oppoſite way of thinking, I would not be guilty of the groſs injuſtice of attempting to force a monarchy upon them contrary to their inclination.

1rthly, Becauſe I think that no war ought to be continued, that can by a proper line of moderation be avoided; and the more eſpecially with reſpect to the French people, who by their Republican

publican exertions, Republican enthuſiaſm, and Republican courage, have made victory the almoſt conſtant "order of the day."

12thly, Becauſe the continuance of ſuch a bloody conteſt without neceſſity, appears to be a profane tempting of DIVINE PROVIDENCE, in whoſe benign and Almighty hands, the fate of battles, and of empires is placed.

13thly, Becauſe I wiſh to waſh my hands intirely of the innocent *blood* that may be ſhed in this war with France; of all the carnage which may take place; and of all the deſtruction, confuſion, and devaſtation, perhaps in Great Britain itſelf) which may enſue.

14thly, Becauſe it was my object to preclude the Government of Great Britain, from attempting to ſtir up or excite inſurrections in *La Vendee*, or any other department of the French Republic; and the Reſolution I moved was well calculated for that purpoſe.—And,

15thly, Becauſe the maxim of "Do not to others "that which you would not wiſh done to your-"ſelf," is an unerring rule, founded upon the clear principle of Juſtice, that is to ſay, of *Equality of Rights*.—It is upon this ſtrong and ſolid ground that I make *my ſtand*. And all public men, in order to merit the confidence of the Britiſh People, muſt ſhew their determination to act with frankneſs, and with unequivocal good faith, and juſtice towards the French Republic.

Having, upon this moſt important and momentous ſubject, frequently ſtood alone and having alſo

alſo been upon this laſt occaſion, totally unſupported in the Diviſion, if I ſhould therefore ceaſe, at preſent, to attend this Houſe, (where I have been placed by the mere *accident of birth*) ſuch of my Fellow Citizens as are Friends to Freedom, and who may chance to read this my ſolemn PROTEST will find that I have not altered my ſentiments, or opinions: and that I have not changed any of my principles; for my principles NEVER CAN be changed. And thoſe fellow Citizens will alſo find, that I hereby pledge myſelf, to my Country, that I ſhall continue, what I ever have been, a zealous, and unſhaken Friend t PEACE, to Juſtice, and to Liberty, political, civil, and religious: and that I am determined to die (as I have lived) a firm and ſteady ſupporter of the unalienable Rights, and of the happineſs of all Mankind.

STANHOPE.

FINIS.